Santa Clara Valley Water District

FY 2013

Budget in Brief

Budget Highlights:

- $285.2 million total operating and capital budget
- $27.4 million reduction from FY 2012
- $2.2 million savings from reduced staffing over FY 2012
- 11.5 percent reduction in training-related travel/lodging costs from FY 2012
- 12 scheduled capital construction projects expected to create 800–1,600 local jobs
- $41.4 million expected in external funding

Key deliverables:

- Complete the construction of the multi-million dollar Silicon Valley Advanced Water Purification Center
- Complete the replacement of 12 adjustable speed drive pumps at the Pacheco Pumping Plant, the largest pump station managed by the district
- Conclude the modification of the electrical equipment, including transformers, electrical panels and pump system valves, at the Rinconada Water Treatment Plant in Los Gatos
- Inspect and assess 140 miles of streams throughout the county
- Repair 630 linear feet of eroding creek banks to maintain creek conveying capacity and water quality
- Manage 350 acres of re-vegetation along streams
- Acquire Hendrys Creeks Properties to preserve 117 acres of stream and watershed land

District mission and services

Beau Goldie
Chief Executive Officer

THE MISSION

of the district is to provide for a healthy, safe, and enhanced quality of living in Santa Clara County through watershed stewardship and comprehensive management of water resources in a practical, cost-effective and environmentally sensitive manner for current and future generations.

Serving you since 1929

The Santa Clara Valley Water District serves nearly two million people in Santa Clara County by providing a safe and reliable supply of water; enhancing streams and watersheds through creek restoration and habitat protection; providing flood protection for homes, schools and businesses; and partnering with other agencies to provide trails, parks and open space for community recreation.

The district does this by effectively managing 10 dams and surface water reservoirs, imported water supplies, three drinking water treatment plants, 143 miles of pipelines, three pumping stations, a state-of-the-art water quality laboratory, nearly 400 acres of groundwater recharge ponds and more than 275 miles of streams.

The district provides wholesale water to 12 local municipalities and private water retailers, who, in turn, use our treated water and groundwater basins, along with other sources, to deliver drinking water directly to homes and businesses in the county.

To protect people and property from potential flooding, the district has invested more than $1 billion in large capital projects as well as annual stream maintenance efforts since the 1980s.

Maintaining healthy streams is essential to effective flood protection and water management, and the district continues to work to reduce toxins, contaminants and trash from our waterways.

Reliable, Clean Water

This includes:
- Ensuring dam safety and maintenance
- Acquiring local and imported water supplies
- Delivering high-quality drinking and recycled water
- Managing infrastructure
- Conserving water

Natural Flood Protection

This includes:
- Carrying out flood protection capital projects
- Maintaining stream capacity
- Inspecting and repairing assets, such as stream banks, levees, bypass channels and floodwalls

Water Resources Stewardship

This includes:
- Reducing effects of mercury in watersheds
- Stabilizing creek banks
- Removing trash from creeks
- Managing environmental enhancements grants
- Increasing recreational access

FY 2013 budget

Budget Overview

The FY 2013 budget reinforces our commitment to focus on providing the core services that are critical to Santa Clara County communities and must be delivered without interruption.

The budget is comprised of $220.3 million in net operating outlays and $64.9 million in capital projects. It focuses on:

- Maintaining the vast network and infrastructure necessary to transport, treat and deliver clean, reliable water
- Maintaining flood protection channels to protect communities
- Continuing to provide stream stewardship to safely transport stormwater and provide wildlife habitat

The $285.2 million budget is nearly 9 percent lower than last year. It is a continuation of efforts initiated a few years ago to reduce costs and provide precise budgeting, while improving efficiency, effectiveness and optimization of services throughout the district.

The district has cut 107 positions since 2008. In addition, the district has entered into new labor contracts with its three bargaining units resulting in net savings of more than $7.7 million over the three-year agreement period.

This year's budget has also benefitted from improved forecasting and adaptive planning, which allows the district to be more nimble and make adjustments in response to changing capital or operational needs.

The actions that have been taken over the past several years have ensured that the organization is well situated to effectively deliver core services.

Water infrastructure investment needed

Like most urban water agencies, the future calls for major infrastructure investments. The investments are needed to maintain and manage an aging infrstructure, improve the seismic reliability of our dams, ensure water supply reliability and quality, and deliver major flood protection projects.

Over the next decade, the district will invest approximately $1 billion on critical infrastructure repairs to prevent major infrastructure breakdown and ensure a safe and reliable water system.

These investments can only be fully realized with the support of federal and state resources. Since FY 2009, we have leveraged more than $69 million in federal, state and local funds and in FY 2013 we are scheduled to receive more than $41million to support critical water infrastructure projects.

District at a glance

Cities served: 15
Water retailers served: 12
Population served: 2 million residents and commuters
Budget: $285.2 million
Water used in the county: Approximately 454,000 acre-feet (AF)* in 2011
Water imported: 138,000 AF in 2011
Groundwater recharged: 95,000 AF in 2011
Reservoirs: 10, combined capacity of 169,000 AF
Treatment plants: 3, delivered 122,000 AF in 2011
Pumping plants: 3
Miles of pipelines: 143
Miles of streams maintained: 275
Parcels removed from floodplain: Nearly 100,000 since 1980s
Mercury removed from waterways: More than 4,200 pounds since 2000
Acres of wildlife habitat restored: 569

**An acre-foot is about 326,000 gallons, the amount two families of five consume over a year.*

FY 2013 budget priorities

Managing critical water infrastructure calls for major investments

Managing infrastructure assets for reliability

From dams to treatment plants to pipelines, much of the district's infrastructure was built 50 to 60 years ago. This aging infrastructure must be properly maintained on an ongoing basis, repaired, replaced or renovated over time to ensure that these assets continue to reliably provide drinking water, provide flood protection and protect the environment in the future.

The district's asset management program entails developing and implementing a systematic process to effectively manage this infrastructure over the long term and to get the most out of our water supply, flood protection and stream stewardship work.

The asset management program is supported by the district's Five-Year Capital Improvement Program (CIP), which the board approved along with the FY 2013 budget. The Fiscal Year 2013-17 Capital Improvement Program includes 72 projects totaling $2.3 billion. During this period, it is estimated that the district will award construction contracts worth $540 million, which is expected to generate or sustain between 5,300 and 10,600 jobs in the private sector. In addition, an estimated $45 million to $55 million will be expended on consultant contracts, generating or sustaining between 200 and 400 jobs in the private sector.

The five-year CIP includes 40 projects for water supply improvements ($1.0 billion), 16 projects to increase flood protection ($715 million), and 11 environmental restoration, enhancement and mitigation projects ($60 million).

Among the projects planned for FY 2013 are:

- Rinconada Water Treatment Plant Reliability Improvement project – $8.5 million allocated for the multi-year project that is estimated to cost $207 million.
- Five-year Pipeline Rehabilitation – $4.1 million allocated for the project that is estimated to cost $22.9 million and is scheduled to be completed in 2017.
- Pacheco Pumping Plant Adjustable Speed Drives Replacement – $1 million. The total project cost is estimated to be $19.6 million. The plant is the largest district-operated pump station.
- Corrosion Repairs to the Penitencia Water Treatment Plant Clearwell – $1 million. The total project cost is estimated at $4.5 million.
- Santa Teresa Water Treatment Plant Incompatible Materials project to improve safety at the plant – $3.2 million. The total project cost is estimated to be $12.8 million.

For more information about the district's five-year CIP, visit valleywater.org/CIP.aspx.

Securing imported water to ensure adequate supplies

Since our local water resources are insufficient to meet all the water needs of our region, on average 55 percent of our water supply is imported, originating in the Sierra Nevada. Approximately 40 percent of this water is delivered through the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta.

It is critical that these imported water supplies be maintained, not only to meet annual drinking water

The Delta transports 40 percent of our water supply

needs but also to sustain the county's groundwater basins, and prevent recurrence of land subsidence and saltwater intrusion. Imported water supplies are critical to sustaining the county's economy.

In addition to importing water, the district also negotiates water transfers, water banking and annual exchanges to address potenital water shortages.

However, the Delta is in peril due to deteriorating water quality, environmental stressors, instability of existing Delta levees, underlying seismic risks, increasing threats of altered hydrology and sea level rise due to climate change, and ongoing regulatory uncertainty and concerns over the health of the Delta ecosystem.

The district is participating in the development of a long-term, science-based Delta solution that is cost-effective and balances water supply reliability and a sustainable Delta ecosystem.

The budget allocation for imported water is $44.4 million.

For more information, visit valleywater.org/Services/Delta.aspx.

Ensuring safety of the dams

Recognizing the catastrophic nature of potential dam failure, dam safety continues to be one of the district's top district priorities. The program includes monitoring, maintenance and rehabilitation of the dams.

With greater understanding about seismic events, standards have evolved significantly since the dams were constructed in the 1930s and 50s. As a result, the district is conducting seismic stability evaluations of eight of its 10 dams. Evaluations of three dams, including Anderson Dam, have been completed. The evaluation of three additional dams will be completed early this fiscal year with the final two scheduled for completion the following year.

The FY 2013 budget includes:

- Anderson Dam Seismic Retrofit – Continue work on seismic stability improvements for public safety, operational flexibility and asset protection. In FY 2013, $1.6 million is allocated for the multi-year project estimated to cost $191 million.
- Calero and Guadalupe Dams Seismic Retrofit – Plan, design and carry out improvements to the Calero and Guadalupe dams, and the Almaden-Calero Canal. The FY 2013 budget allocation is $2.2 million, while the total project cost is estimated at $120 million.

For more information, visit valleywater.org/damsafety.aspx.

Evaluating the seismic stability of Anderson Dam

Expanding recycled water to improve reliability

With water demand forecast to increase in the future and the imported water supplies continuing to be uncertain, the district is developing local supply.

An increasingly important local source of water supply is drought-proof recycled water. In the FY 2013 budget, the district is continuing its significant investment in recycled water with the ongoing construction of the Silicon Valley Advanced Water Purification Center in north San Jose.

The $65 million project, a partnership with the San Jose City, is scheduled to be completed in March 2013 and begin producing up to eight million gallons per day of highly purified water.

The near-distilled-quality water will be blended with existing recycled water for expanded use in industry and irrigation, and is allocated $1.5 million in FY 2013. For more information, visit valleywater.org/Services/RecycledWater.aspx.

FY 2012-13 budget priorities

Planning for sustainable water management

The district's long-range planning efforts guide the investment of public funds in maintaining the complex system for the reliable delivery of quality services. Currently, two master plan efforts are under way.

The Water Supply and Infrastructure Master Plan, with a $0.5 million allocation, will be the district's roadmap for ensuring future water supply reliability for the residents and businesses in Silicon Valley. The plan, to be completed in fall 2012, will identify the supplies, infrastructure and operational approaches needed to meet our region's water needs.

The master plan will specify:

- The preferred mix of water supply sources and conservation
- New infrastructure and existing infrastructure capacity increases that will be needed to treat, store and transport future water supply sources
- Operational approaches for managing water supplies and facilities

Meanwhile, the Flood Protection and Stream Stewardship Master Plan has completed needs and opportunities identification. It will lay the foundation for prioritizing the flood protection and stream stewardship work for the future. For more information, visit valleywater.org/services/watersupplyplanning.aspx.

Environmental stewardship

Another important element of the district's mission is to provide water resources stewardship. This entails integrating stewardship in our operations and capital projects as well as protecting and restoring habitats.

For example, in FY 2013, among the priority water utility projects is the completion of the Three Creeks Habitat Conservation Plan, which addresses how the district's water supply and dam maintenance activities affect steelhead trout populations in local waterways. Some of the other significant stewardship projects in FY 2013 are:

- Managing 350 acres of revegetation along streams – $1.4 million
- Updating a hydrologic model for three creeks – $250,000
- Acquiring Hendrys Creek property to preserve about 117 acres of stream and watershed land – $1.5 million
- Restoring Jacues Gulch, a tributory to the Almaden Reservoir, to reduce the amount of mercury transported into the Guadalupe River – $132,000

For more information, visit valleywater.org/Services HealthyCreeksandEcoSystems.aspx

Completed Stevens Creek Corridor Phase One

FY 2012-13 budget priorities

Meeting our Clean, Safe Creeks commitments

In 2000, Santa Clara County voters approved the Clean, Safe Creeks and Natural Flood Protection special parcel tax to fund projects addressing the community needs for enhanced stream stewardship and flood protection.

Most of the projects or outcomes identified in the measure have been entirely or nearly completed or are on track to be completed. These include six locally funded flood protection projects. However, three flood protection projects that are heavily dependent on diminishing state and federal funding have been re-scoped to deliver the "local funding only" option.

The Clean, Safe Creeks program allocations for this year are $20.7 million, of which $12.2 million is for flood protection; $4.7 million is to ensure there is clean, safe water in creeks and bays; and $2.1 million to protect, enhance or restore creek and bay ecosystems.

Among the Clean, Safe Creeks flood protection projects with major funding allocations are:

- Permanente Creek – $10.4 million to continue work on a project to provide flood protection to 1,664 parcels between El Camino Real and San Francisco Bay, improve water quality, provide environmental restoration, and enhance trails opportunities. The total project cost is estimated at $56.5 million.
- Sunnyvale East and West Channels – $2.54 million and FY 2012 carry-forward of $1.4 million. The total project cost is estimated at $96.5 million.
- Upper Berryessa Creek – $2.6 million. The total project cost is estimated at $39.9 million.
- Upper Guadalupe River – Plan to expend $3.3 million, which is money carried forward from FY 2012. The total project cost is estimated at $133.6 million.

More information on progress of the program, including reports from the Independent Monitoring Committee on Clean, Safe Creeks implementation, is available at valleywater.org/Programs/CleanSafeCreeksPlan.aspx.

Calabazas Creek Flood Protection Project has been completed

Maintaining protection from flooding

Protecting homes, businesses and transportation networks from the devastating effects of floods is one of the main jobs of the district. Flood protection activities include both major construction projects and annual stream maintenance to maintain the water-carrying capacity of streams and channels.

The Clean, Safe Creeks program funds a significant portion of flood protection capital projects. The FY 2013 watersheds operation and capital budget allocation is $51.5 million and includes:

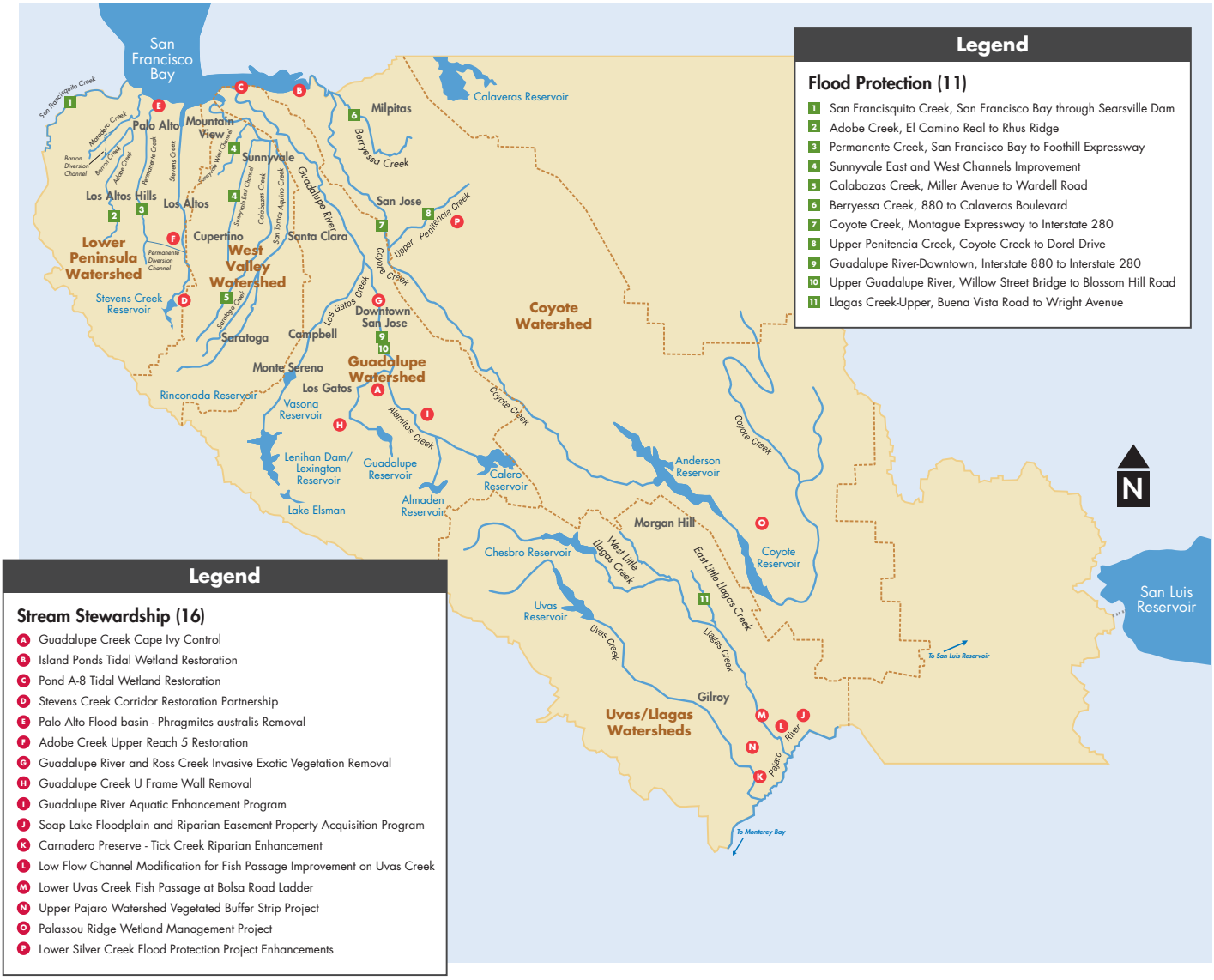
- Inspecting and assessing 140 miles of streams throughout the county – $4.2 million
- Repairing 630 linear feet of eroding creek banks to maintain creek conveying capacity and water quality – $2.3 million
- Removing 41,400 yards of sediment – $3.5 million
- Removing 620 acres of in-stream vegetation – $1.1 million
- Removing 2,600 cubic yards of debris from streams – $1.2 million
- Managing 2,720 acres of vegetation on upland property – $1.9 million

Get more information at valleywater.org/services/FloodProtection.aspx.

An integrated water system

Where does our water come from?

Flood protection and stream stewardship projects



The district is one of a very few water agencies that manage water supply and flood protection, while providing stream stewardship. This is a great advantage as the district is best able to consider water supply impacts when altering a creek to provide flood protection, or consider impacts to the environment downstream as well as flood risks when operating water supply reservoirs.

Both district operations and capital projects can have either a negative or positive effect on the critical life cycle of plants and animals. By integrating environmental principles in all its water supply and flood protection decisions, the district is able to minimize the negative effects as well as help restore habitat by mitigation projects. In addition, the district carries out environmental enhancement projects that create or restore tidal or riparian wetlands.

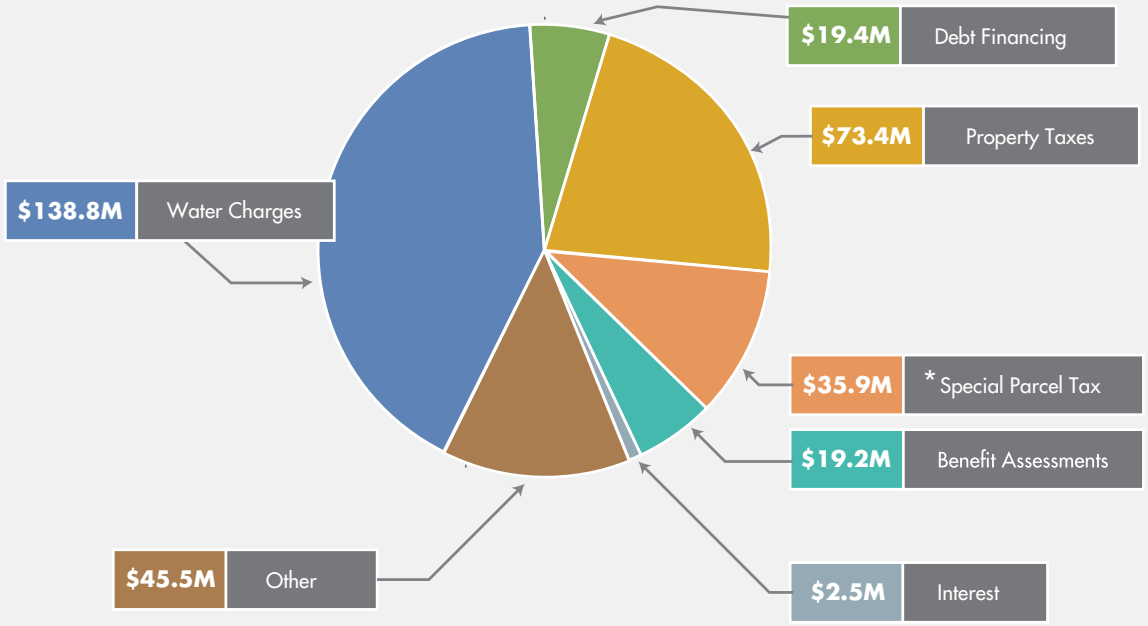
The map above shows some of the flood protection and the stream stewardship projects, including the Clean, Safe Creeks projects.

For more information, visit valleywater.org/Services/HealthyCreeksandEcoSystems.aspx.

District revenues

How is the district funded?

FY 2013 total revenues: $334.7 million



The district receives funding from a variety of sources, including treated water, surface/recycled water and groundwater production charges; proceeds from ad valorem property taxes; Clean, Safe Creeks and Natural Flood Protection special parcel tax; benefit assessments that support financing for flood protection projects; interest earnings, cost-sharing agreements and grants.

The Special Parcel Tax*, which provides funding for stream stewardship and flood protection, will expire in 2016.

Bringing federal, state and local funds

The district aggressively pursues external funding to supplement its principal revenue. For example, since 2000, the district has received more than $135 million in federal funding for U.S. Army Corps of Engineers flood protection projects. Similarly by June 2012, the district had received nearly $21 million in the federal American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) stimulus funding.

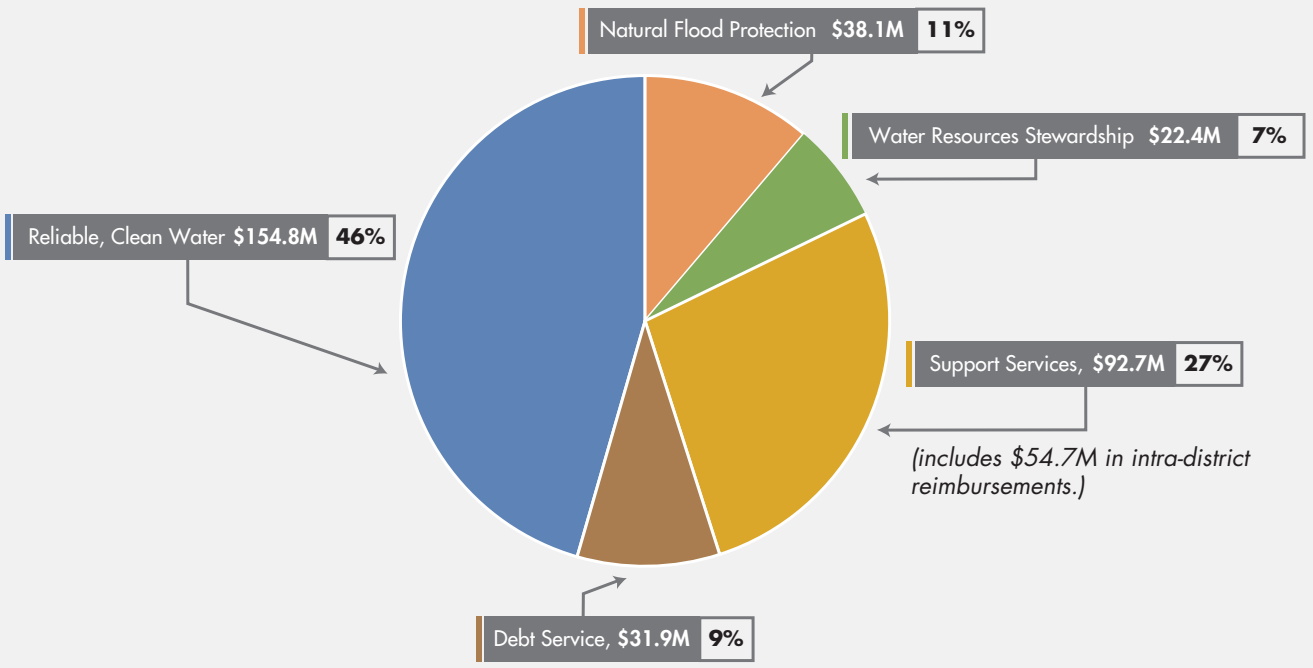
In FY 2013, the district is projected to bring in $41.4 million in federal, state and local funds. Among the projects expected to receive external funding are:

- $22.5 million in federal and state funding for the Lower Silver Creek Project
- $12.6 million in state funding for the Upper Guadalupe River Flood Protection Project
- $1 million from the City of Morgan Hill for the Upper Llagas Creek Flood Protection project
- $1.2 million from U.S. Bureau of Reclamation for Recycled Water
- $483,000 in local reimbursements for Pacheco Pumping Plant ASD replacement maintenance; San Felipe cable replacement; and small capital improvements
- $300,000 from the City of San José as cost sharing for the Silicon Valley Advanced Water Purification Center

District outlays

What does the FY 2013 budget pay for?

FY 2013 total outlays: $285.2 million*



Budgeted activities carry out the district's mission as defined by our board of directors through district "ends," or outcome-related, policies.

The three highest-level policies are:

- There is a reliable, clean water supply for current and future generations (Reliable, Clean Water).
- There is a healthy and safe environment for residents, businesses and visitors, as well as for future generations (Natural Flood Protection).
- There is water resources stewardship to protect and enhance watersheds and natural resources and to improve the quality of life in Santa Clara County (Water Resources Stewardship).

The chart above shows projected funding for each of the three areas for FY 2013, plus debt service and support services.

Debt service reflects the debt incurred to finance projects providing reliable, clean water, natural flood protection and water resources stewardship.

Support Services include governance and leadership; financial, legal, human and information system resources; and business assets. Support Services budget numbers of $92.7 million in the chart above include $54.7 million funded by intra-district overhead reimbursements.

**$285.2M does not include $54.7M in intra-district reimbursements. These are overhead costs charged to projects for support services such as human resources, information technology, legal and financial services.*

Financial Stability and Future Planning

Reserves fund expected and unexpected infrastructure costs

Water utility is one of the most capital-intensive utility sectors. It is substantially more capital intensive than other regulated industries such as electric, gas, and telecom, and about 20 times more capital intensive than the Standard and Poor's 500, according to the 2009 Water Research Foundation report "Improving Water Utility Capital Efficiency."

Managing, maintaining and upgrading our county's complex and critical water system infrastructure requires long-term planning and large investments. To make these investments, or to meet any emergency, the district sets aside reserve funds.

Reserves are budgeted funds set aside for specific future costs, such as large capital projects or infrastructure refurbishments, or to meet any unexpected costs. Reserves provide a critical safety net to ensure that the district has the funds to meet its operational obligations in the normal course of business and in times of emergency.

For example, over the next decade, the district will invest about $1 billion on critical infrastructure repairs to prevent any major infrastructure breakdown and ensure a safe and reliable water system. These include major investments to improve the seismic reliability of our dams, and to upgrade the Rinconada Water Treatment Plant, the district's first drinking water treatment plant that began operations in 1968.

The district's financial outlook shows that between 2013 and 2018, district expenditures will exceed revenues each year, and reserves will help the district make the essential investments. As construction of these major public works projects are undertaken, the district's unrestricted reserves will be drawn down.

"Restricted" reserves have legal, regulatory or contractual limitations, and may be spent for specific purposes only. "Committed" reserves do not have externally-imposed restrictions, but are designated for specific uses, such as capital construction, operations and maintenance activities, or to meet uninsured catastrophic losses.

The district's reserve policy is reviewed annually in public session with our board of directors and ensures that reserves are used for their intended purposes. For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2013, the district's reserves are estimated at $267.3 million.

Local funding for local water projects

Since 2000, many of the district's highest priority efforts have been supported by voter-approved local funding, which is set to expire in 2016.

To ensure safe, clean water is here in the county for years to come, the district has developed the Safe, Clean Water and Natural Flood Protection Program, a 15-year program based on input received from approximately 16,000 residents and stakeholders.

The program priorities are:

- Ensure a safe, reliable water supply for the future
- Reduce toxins, hazards and contaminants, such as mercury and pharmaceuticals, in our waterways
- Protect our water supply and local dams from the impacts of earthquakes and natural disasters
- Restore fish, bird and wildlife habitat; and provide open space access
- Provide flood protection to homes, businesses, schools, streets and highways

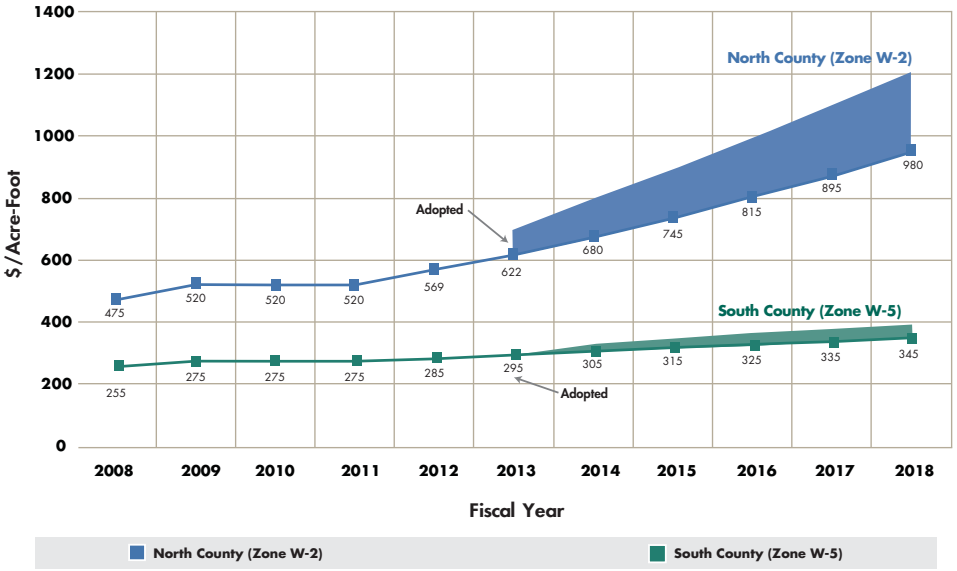
In July 2012, the district board of directors decided to place a measure on the November ballot to renew the expiring parcel tax to fund these high priorities without increasing tax rates.

Any renewal of the voter-approved local funding would:

- Provide an exemption for low-income seniors citizens
- Require all expenditures to be published annually
- Require external oversight by an independent monitoring committee
- Require at least two professional audits

Continuation of the existing parcel tax, currently at about $54 per residential parcel, will provide $720 million to fulfill the community priorities over the 15-year life of the program. For more information, visit safecleanwater.org.

Groundwater production charges for municipal and industrial uses



The lower end of the ranges (line immediately below the shaded areas) represents the adopted groundwater projection charges for FY 2012-13 and projected for FY 2014-2018. The corresponding future trajectory is based on the assumption that operating services will either continue at or below the level budgeted in FY 2013. The high end of the range (line immediately above the shaded areas) represents the groundwater production charges required to fund all the operations and capital projects identified by water utility staff to meet the board's Ends Policies over the next few years. Future uncertainties could result in the identification of additional capital or operations projects that are not reflected in the high end of the range.

Water charges raised to maintain and rehabilitate critical infrastructure

In FY 2013, the district increased the municipal and industrial groundwater production charge by 9.3 percent (average of $1.83 per month per household) in the North County, and 3.5 percent, (average of 34 cents per month) in the South County. These charges pay for all operations and capital projects associated with managing the groundwater.

The charges vary between the two water utility zones —Zone W-2 for North County and Zone W-5 for South County—because the two zones are substantially separate and distinct with entirely different costs of providing service.

The North County, which overlays the Santa Clara groundwater subbasin, North of Metcalf Road, is densely populated and has more infrastructure, including three drinking water treatment plants, to serve mostly municipal and industrial water needs.

The South County, which overlays the entire Llagas groundwater subbasin from Metcalf Road south to the Pajaro River, is more sparsely populated. It relies on groundwater to serve roughly 50 percent agricultural and 50 percent non-agricultural water needs. Although no treated water is produced in South County, it receives imported water to recharge the groundwater subbasin.

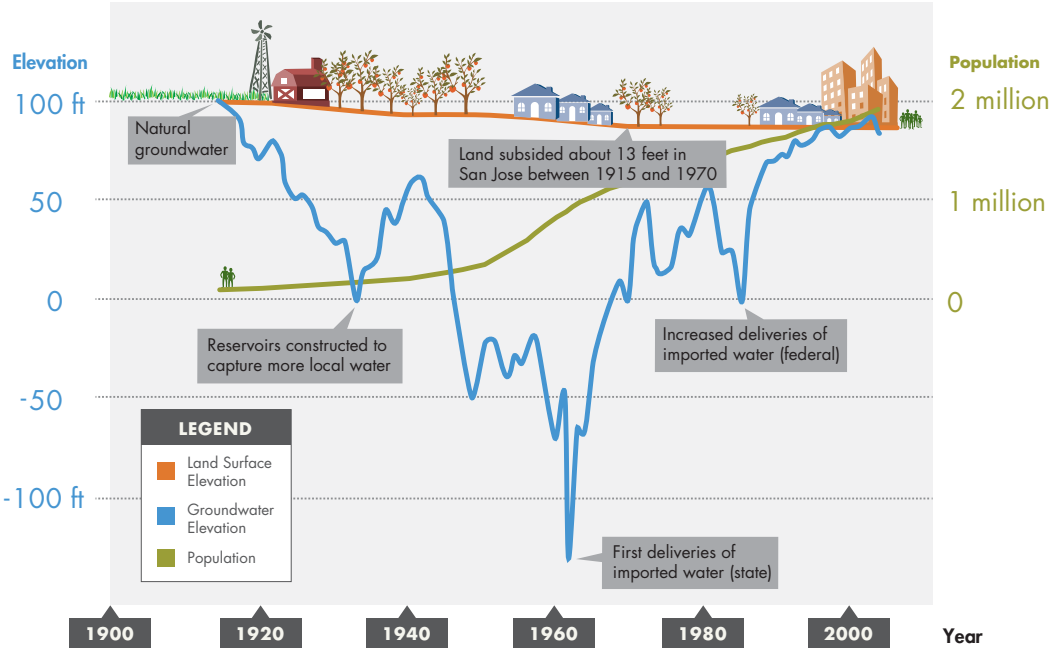
The latest increases in charges are critical to carry out infrastructure repair/replacement projects and fund essential operations, such as operating an extensive water-supply system, importing water and running and maintaining water treatment plants, to ensure an uninterrupted supply of water.

Many of the district's reservoirs are currently under storage restrictions because the dams are not seismically safe. Similarly, some of the pipelines, valves and treatment plant equipment are nearing the end of their useful life and must be replaced.

In addition, the Silicon Valley is heavily dependent on imported water delivered through the Delta, which is in ecological decline and threatens key fish species and water supply reliability. To reduce our reliance on the Delta, the district is making significant investments to expand the use of locally sourced recycled water.

Costs are also rising because of increasingly stringent drinking water regulations that make it necessary to invest in new treatment technologies.

Value of water



A graphic representation not intended as a technical exhibit.

Groundwater: Investing in reliability

Groundwater is the foundation of our water supply, meeting about 40 percent of the demand. Approximately 160,000 AF of groundwater is pumped by local water retailers and private well owners each year.

Local communities have relied on groundwater since the 1850s, but excessive pumping in the early 1900s led to overdraft and land subsidence, causing the land to sink. As the graph above shows, the groundwater decline was briefly halted after the district constructed reservoirs to capture more local water and recharge the groundwater. However, the explosive post-WWII growth combined with a major drought from 1940-46, put a severe strain on the local water resources.

This trend was halted in 1969, a result of the district actively managing the groundwater to replenish the aquifer with local and imported water. The program includes management and operation of dams, pipelines and recharge ponds. On average, the district's recharge program replenishes twice the amount of water replenished naturally.

The district's treated water deliveries and water conservation and recycling programs also help protect groundwater by reducing the amount of water that needs to be pumped.

In addition, the district monitors and protects groundwater quality through sampling from a number of deep wells throughout the county. It also ensures wells are properly constructed and destroyed, conducts technical studies, and works with regulatory and land use agencies to prevent or minimize contamination. The vast storage capacity in groundwater basins also serves as protection against droughts. It allows the district to store excess water in wet years for use during shortages. Recharging and monitoring groundwater also prevents saltwater intrusion in the north part of the county.

Active management of groundwater is vital to protect against groundwater overdraft, land subsidence, and salt water intrusion. With the extensive infrastructure in place today, even a small amount of subsidence would be financially devastating.

Get more information at valleywater.org/Services/Groundwater.aspx.

Value of water

A Gallon of **TAP WATER**
less than a cent

A Gallon of*

$11.35

A Gallon of*

$16.00

A Gallon of*

$4.00

A Gallon of*

$2.49

*(*Prices based on California averages.)*

Tap water - a true bargain

In Santa Clara County, on average, a gallon of tap water costs less than a cent. It is a true bargain considering the large infrastructure, the energy and expertise it takes to treat and provide safe and clean water 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. When compared with the cost of other products we use every day, tap water is clearly one of the best deals around.

Wholesale agency rate comparison

Wholesale Agencies	FY 2012	FY 2013	
SCVWD North W-2 (Groundwater production per AF)	$569	9.3%	Adopted
SCVWD North W-2 (Treated Water per AF)	$669	7.9%	Adopted
SCVWD South W-5 (Groundwater production per AF)	$285	3.5%	Adopted
Metropolitan Water District (Treated Water per AF)[1]	$900	4.3%	Adopted
Metropolitan Water District (Untreated Water per AF)[1]	$666	5.4%	Adopted
Orange County Water District (Groundwater per AF)	$254	4.7%	Adopted
San Diego County Water Authority (Treated Water per AF)[1]	$1,353	9.9%	Adopted
San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (Treated Water per AF)	$1,146	11.4%	Adopted
Zone 7 Water District (Treated Water per AF)[1]	$945	7.0%	Staff Projection

[1]MWD, SDCWA and Zone 7 rates are based on a calendar year. (i.e. 2013 rate would be effective on 1/1/2013)

From left to right: Directors Tony Estremera, Patrick Kwok, Richard P. Santos, Donald F. Gage, Linda J. LeZotte, Joe Judge and Brian A. Schmidt

Linda J. LeZotte
Chair
District 4

Patrick Kwok
Vice Chair
District 5

Donald F. Gage
District 1

Joe Judge
District 2

Richard P. Santos
District 3

Tony Estremera
District 6

Brian A. Schmidt
District 7

Governance and Board of Directors

Pursuant to the District Act, the district's board of directors governs the district (California Water Code, Chapter 60, Water Code Appendix, §§ 1-35) and directs the CEO and board-appointed officers. The board is composed of seven members; each elected from equally populated district's drawn through a formal process. Board members serve overlapping four-year terms and elect a new chair and vice-chair annually.

The board holds regular public meetings and special board meetings, as needed. Board agendas and supporting materials are posted 10 days in advance, providing the public sufficient notice. The board meetings are also broadcast on the internet and are accessible in a web archive. In fact, the district is the only Northern California water agency that broadcasts its board meetings.

How to find out more

Interested in learning more about the Santa Clara Valley Water District, our finances and our budget? Just visit www.valleywater.org, and click on "About Us." You'll find financial information, including the adopted FY 2013 budget.

For questions on the district's financial planning and budget, contact Najon Chu, Chief Financial Officer at (408) 630-2208.

Stay in touch!

/scvwd

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